



**Minutes of Meeting
CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
September 10, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners

X	Larry Bomke	X	Robert Plunk
X	Josh Collins	X	J.D. Sudeth
X	James Donelan	X	Joan Walters
	Karen Hasara	X	Robert Wesley
X	Jackie Newman		

Others:

Norm Sims - SSCPRC

Amy Uden - SSCRPC

Matthew Case- SSCRPC

Gail Weiskopf - SSCRPC

Dominic Vespa – Trustee of Riverton Area Fire Protection District

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Joan Walters called the meeting of the Citizens' Efficiency Commission to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Walters asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the August 13, 2014 meeting. Mr. Josh Collins moved to approve the minutes from the last CEC meeting. Mr. Robert Plunk seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

III. Update on County Board Meeting and RLC Activities

Chair Walters asked for discussion of the September 9, 2014, Sangamon County Board meeting. Mr. Norm Sims said that Walters' comments appropriately expressed the commission's goals. He indicated that he would like a transcript of the discussion to use for reference moving forward.

Chair Walters offered her appreciation toward the County Board for the invitation and proclamation. She indicated that the meeting included a proclamation read by County Board Member Andy Goleman. She reported that past Vice Chair Mike Murphy had spoken about the past commission and Chair Walters had then spoken about the current commission. Commissioners had also thanked SSCRPC staff for their professional support throughout the work of the CEC.

Mr. Robert Wesley stated that the County Board Proclamation included important language that he felt was imperative. In essence, he felt that the Board had stated that they will address CEC recommendations going forward. He suggested creating quarterly reports that are specific as to what actions the CEC feels the Board should take on specific items. He noted that the CEC should feel free to clarify if/when the



County Board has authority to implement a recommendation, noting that the County Board always retains the power to issue proclamation or resolutions to provide assistance in generating publicity for important tasks. The CEC discussed ways that it could incorporate the board into its work to generate action.

Mr. Plunk recognized Fire District Trustee of Riverton Dominic Vespa, who provided a book created by the Illinois Association Fire Districts. Chair Walters noted that Mr. Vespa had told her he had no comments and would need to leave early. She thanked him for his service and for his attendance at the meeting.

Chair Walters requested an update from the Regional Leadership Council meeting. SSCRPC staff reported on the shared procurement pilot project related to road salt. A survey had been compiled and received a good number of responses. After obtaining this information and reviewing salt bid options with Sangamon County Highway, it was decided that this year it would not be beneficial due to current market conditions. It was noted that scarcity of salt supply and the high prices are reducing the potential for economies of scale this year. However, many of the mayors had indicated a willingness to work together next year in hopes of capturing efficiencies and potential savings.

Mr. Sims discussed additional shared procurement opportunities, providing an example from a recent meeting held with Sangamon County department heads. The County had indicated that it was in the process of publicizing a request for bids for new vehicles. While some concerns exist in terms of coordinating such opportunities with municipalities due to varying fiscal years, the County had acknowledged that such sharing would make sense as part of the normal course of business. Mr. Sims had asked if the County could join with the RLC as it works to purchase items in the future, and noted that this may provide opportunities to change the nature local government affairs.

Mr. Sims also noted the importance of starting to build CEC recommendations into the standard operating procedures of local governments. He provided several examples of current actions that are positive steps in this direction, including: 1) the merger between Sangamon and Menard County Public Health, 2) an internal postage study being conducted by Sangamon County to reduce costs, 3) the fact that health insurance premiums for Sangamon County have not increased for 3 years due to effective management by an employee governance board, 4) a current multi-county administrative cost study that is underway, and 5) the current development of a multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Sims expressed that a survey should be done of various jurisdictions to discern what CEC recommendations have implemented, what are they doing that they want to share with the other communities, and where they are trying to save tax payer dollars.

Mr. J.D. Sudeth agreed that even though a given proposal may not be workable in the current year, the county and municipalities need continuously be searching for opportunities to cooperate in out years. SSCRPC staff also noted that, even if a specific effort does not come to fruition, such efforts are beneficial in helping organizations adopt the CEC's way of thinking.

IV. Discussion of Task Force Work Plans

Chair Walters then opened the discussion regarding proposed work plans. Ms. Jackie Newman and Mr. Plunk are working on the issue of advancing partnerships and coalitions. Their goals are to work with the Regional Leadership Council (RLC) as a strategic partner to implement pilot projects in the following four CEC recommendation areas: 1) Group Financing, 2) Shared Administration, 3) Shared Procurement, and 4) Energy Efficiency. They will also seek to work with a higher education institution in the development of a performance “dashboard” to assess movement toward improved performance by jurisdictions. Mr. Plunk and Ms. Newman initially plan to contact the RLC Executive Committee. It was also established that Chair Walters would reach out to university officials to introduce this stage of the CEC’s work. Mr. Sims noted some minor staff concerns related to recommending specific consultants or technical experts for pilot projects, as well as the difficulties in developing a useful dashboard or set of performance measures.

Chair Walters and Mr. Jim Donelan are working on the issue of the sewer consolidation study. Their goals are to obtain consultant resources to study the feasibility of a sewer transfer from the City of Springfield to the SMSD, with the particular goals of: 1) determining service benefits of a consolidation, 2) establishing potential phasing options, 3) ensuring consistent service in the future, and 4) analyzing potential costs and benefits. Among the participants with whom they will be working are the County Board, SMSD, and the City of Springfield. They have broken their timetable down into several key dates to keep their plan moving. They noted the importance of timing and cost sharing, as well as their intent to discuss both sanitary and storm sewer.

Hon. Karen Hasara and Sen. Larry Bomke are working on the issue of a regional policing study. Their goal is to initiate a consultant study of how police services could be changed for the benefit of residents. Their proposed course of action will be to locate grant funds or jurisdictional resources to subsidize the study, and they are anticipating having the funding in place by the end of 2014. Discussion related to their work plan included items such as determination of which jurisdictions should be involved in the study, identification of advisors to work with during the process, and the appropriate focus on specialized functions and smaller incremental savings.

Ms. Hasara and Sen. Bomke are also developing linkages with the region’s legislative delegation. They requested that other CEC members submit ideas by the October meeting to be on the legislative agenda. After the November election, they hope to approach certain legislators to assist in sponsoring the CEC’s initiatives for the next legislative session that begins in January. They also indicated that they may wish to partner with Du Page County on some of its pilot initiatives, and that they would review and prioritize the list of legislative action items from the Final Report of the CEC’s first term.

Mr. Sudeth and Mr. Donelan, are developing linkages with township officials. They indicated that they would be meeting with Sangamon County Treasurer Tom Cavanaugh the following week, and had plans to ask him about the two relevant recommendations related to general assistance and township collector positions. They



indicated that following the meeting they will evaluate the region's status and report to the CEC. They noted that townships do meet regularly, but that the RLC could serve as a partner in encouraging the townships to take up substantive issues as it hopes to.

Mr. Plunk and Mr. Wesley are developing linkages with Fire and EMS officials. Their goals include establishing trust and open working relationships, involving fire district trustees, looking into insurance ratings, and renewing emphasis on the EMS portion of this issue. They intend to present a formal work plan at a future meeting.

Mr. Collins and Mr. Sudeth are developing linkages with business leaders. There was some discussion of how partnerships with business leaders can assist the CEC in its efforts.

Chair Walters noted that leverage will be needed to encourage and sustain public support for implementation of CEC recommendations and continued improvement in local governance. The group discussed some avenues for this, including: 1) public information activities, 2) the use of digital and social media, 3) efforts to recognize and highlight positive efforts in other jurisdictions, and 4) attempts to provide forums for public outreach. Walters asked Ms. Newman and Mr. Collins to work on answering questions related to the CEC's web and social media presence. She indicated that further discussion of a public information campaign will occur at the next meeting.

V. New Business

Chair Walters noted that the CEC had received a request for information. The request was for the audio from the meeting on August 13, 2014, and came from a County Board member.

The next CEC meeting date will be October 8, 2014, at 3:00 pm in Room 212 of the Sangamon County Building.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Walters asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments, Chair Walters called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Collins made the motion, with Mr. Donelan seconding. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Weiskopf
Acting as Recording Secretary